

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Yolanda Watson
445 West Ritner Street

(b) Philadelphia, PA 19148

County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Graham F. Baird, Law Office of Eric A. Shore
2 Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 1240, Philadelphia PA 19102
Tel: 267-546-0131

DEFENDANTS

Homewood Suites by Hilton
4109 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
(42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-3(a))

Brief description of cause:

TITLE VII CLAIM--RETALIATION

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

150,000

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

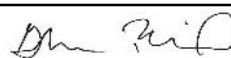
JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

11/11/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Yolanda Watson	:	CIVIL ACTION
v.	:	
Homewood Suites by Hilton, et al	:	
	:	
	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

11/11/2021	Graham F. Baird	Yolanda Watson
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for
267-546-0131	215-944-6124	GrahamB@ericshore.com
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 445 West Ritner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

Address of Defendant: 4109 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 4109 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

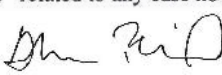
Case Number: _____ Judge: _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 11/11/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)

A. Federal Question Cases:

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☒ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): _____

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): _____
- ☐ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): _____

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

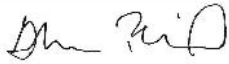
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Graham F. Baird, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 11/11/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

3. Defendant, HERSHA HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT, LP (hereinafter “Hersha”) is a business corporation organized by and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and having a headquarters at the above captioned address. Both Defendants are hereinafter referred to as “Defendants.”

4. At all times material hereto, Defendants qualified as Plaintiff's employer pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and as defined under Pennsylvania law.

5. This action is instituted pursuant to the United States Civil Rights Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

6. Jurisdiction is conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

7. Supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff's state law claim is conferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

8. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies pursuant to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. (See Exhibit A, a true and correct copy of a "right-to-sue" letter issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)

9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because Defendants conduct business in this district, and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district. Plaintiff was working in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania at the time of the illegal actions by Defendants as set forth herein.

II. Operative Facts.

10. Plaintiff is an African-American woman.

11. On or about March 4, 2020, Defendants hired Plaintiff as the Director of Housekeeping, working out of Defendants' Philadelphia, Pennsylvania location captioned above.

12. Beginning on the first day of her employment, Plaintiff was subjected to sexual harassment from Defendants' general manager, Jeff Cafferty.

13. Mr. Cafferty would send inappropriate text messages of a sexual nature to Plaintiff on her personal cell phone on her days off.

14. Mr. Cafferty also made racial jokes regarding Plaintiff's hair, such as asking "is that your real hair?" as well as commenting on her body, stating that she needed to gain weight, and "get thicker."

15. On or about August 19, 2020, Plaintiff had a meeting with Mr. Cafferty to address the issues, at which time Mr. Cafferty told Plaintiff that if she performed a sexual favor for him, then "everything would be fine" and she "wouldn't have anything to worry about"; Plaintiff declined.

16. Plaintiff reported Mr. Cafferty's conduct to Defendants' Human Resources representative Joseph Heck, as well as to Amanda Pulsifer in Defendants' corporate office.

17. After Plaintiff rebuffed Mr. Cafferty's advances, Mr. Cafferty began criticizing her job performance.

18. Upon information and belief, Mr. Cafferty typed up false assessments of Plaintiff's performance and issued Plaintiff a Performance Improvement Plan.

19. On or about August 24, 2020, Plaintiff sent another email to Mr. Heck complaining that Mr. Cafferty was trying to sabotage her department in retaliation and that he was creating a hostile work environment.

20. Plaintiff additionally began to attend therapy appointments due to the hostile work environment she was being subjected to.

21. Mr. Heck's response to Plaintiff was that he "did not see anything wrong with Mr. Cafferty's behavior" and asked Plaintiff if she "wanted to keep her job".

22. Upon information and belief, no action was taken against Mr. Cafferty.

23. On or about September 14, 2020, Plaintiff was scheduled working on her own with no additional help.

24. Mr. Cafferty assigned Plaintiff thirteen (13) rooms to clean without assistance.

25. Plaintiff responded that as she was working on her own she could not do all of the rooms without assistance.

26. On September 16, 2020, Mr. Cafferty terminated Plaintiff's employment.

27. Defendant's motivation in terminating Plaintiff's employment was her race and complaints of racial discrimination and sexual harassment.

28. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct in terminating Plaintiff, he sustained great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, as well emotional distress, humiliation, pain and suffering and other damages as set forth below.

III. Causes of Action.

COUNT I--TITLE VII CLAIM--RETALIATION (42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-3(a))

29. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-28 as if fully set forth at length herein.

30. At set forth above, Plaintiff, made complaints to Defendants concerning racially derogatory statements and sexually harassing conduct that was being directed towards her.

31. In retaliation for making these complaints, Defendants took adverse action against Plaintiff by terminating her employment.

32. Plaintiff's participation in protected activity under Title VII was a motivating factor in Defendants' decision to terminate her employment.

33. As such, Defendants' decision to terminate Plaintiff's employment is a retaliatory action contemplated by Civil Rights Act of 1964, § 704(a).

34. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

35. As a result of the conduct of Defendants' owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

36. Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, § 704(a), 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3(a), et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

**COUNT II – EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION
(42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a))**

37. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-36 as if fully set forth at length herein.

38. Defendants took adverse action against Plaintiff by terminating her employment.

39. Plaintiff's status as an African-American woman places her in a protected class.

40. Plaintiff was subjected to a hostile work environment during her employment with Defendants.

41. Plaintiff's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendants' decision to terminate her employment.

42. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment by Defendants, as set forth above.

43. As such, Defendants' decision to terminate Plaintiff's employment is an unlawful employment practice, under 42. U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).

44. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost

opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

45. As a result of the conduct of Defendants' owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

46. Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-2(a), et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

**COUNT III--VIOLATIONS OF TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
(Hostile Work Environment; 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000 et seq)**

47. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-46 as if fully set forth at length herein.

48. Defendants employed fifteen (15) or more employees in 2020.

49. As described above, Plaintiff was subjected to unwelcome sexual advances, language, innuendo, statements, and/or other conduct, by her manager, Mr. Cafferty, all while being employed by Defendants.

50. The aforementioned actions and conduct were severe, pervasive and continuous, and created a hostile work environment for Plaintiff.

51. Defendants' conduct, as set forth above, violated Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964.

52. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages including by not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, lost future wages, loss of front pay and back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, personal injury type damages, pain and suffering, consequential damages, as well as a work loss, loss of opportunity and a permanent diminution of her earning power and capacity, and a claim is made therefore.

COUNT IV--PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT

43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

53. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-52 as if fully set forth at length herein.

54. As set forth above, Plaintiff is a member of a protected class.

55. Defendants terminated Plaintiff's employment.

56. As set forth above, a motivating factor in the decision to terminate Plaintiff's employment was Plaintiff's complaints regarding a pattern of racially discriminatory conduct on the part of the employer.

57. Plaintiff's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendants' decision to terminate her employment.

58. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment by Defendants, as set forth above.

59. Plaintiff was subjected to a hostile work environment, as described above.

60. As such, Defendants have violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

61. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

62. Plaintiff demands attorneys' fees and court costs.

IV. Relief Requested.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, YOLANDA WATSON demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants, HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON and HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, LP, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00 together with:

- A. Compensatory damages, including but not limited to: back pay, front pay, past lost wages, future lost wages. Lost pay increases, lost pay incentives, lost opportunity, lost benefits, lost future earning capacity, injury to reputation, mental and emotional distress, pain and suffering
- B. Punitive damages;
- C. Attorneys fees and costs of suit;
- D. Interest, delay damages; and,
- E. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY:  _____

GRAHAM F. BAIRD, ESQUIRE

Two Penn Center
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1240
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attorney for Plaintiff, Yolanda Watson

Date: 11/11/2021

EXH. A

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO SUE (ISSUED ON REQUEST)

To: **Yolanda Watson**
445 Ritner Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

From: **Philadelphia District Office**
801 Market Street
Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19107

☐

On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

530-2020-05707

Legal Unit,
Legal Technician

(267) 589-9700

(See also the additional information enclosed with this form.)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON AGGRIEVED:

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA): This is your Notice of Right to Sue, issued under Title VII, the ADA or GINA based on the above-numbered charge. It has been issued at your request. Your lawsuit under Title VII, the ADA or GINA **must be filed in a federal or state court WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice**; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

☒

More than 180 days have passed since the filing of this charge.

☐

Less than 180 days have passed since the filing of this charge, but I have determined that it is unlikely that the EEOC will be able to complete its administrative processing within 180 days from the filing of this charge.

☒

The EEOC is terminating its processing of this charge.

☐

The EEOC will continue to process this charge.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA): You may sue under the ADEA at any time from 60 days after the charge was filed until 90 days after you receive notice that we have completed action on the charge. In this regard, **the paragraph marked below applies to your case:**

☐

The EEOC is closing your case. Therefore, your lawsuit under the ADEA **must be filed in federal or state court WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this Notice**. Otherwise, your right to sue based on the above-numbered charge will be lost.

☐

The EEOC is continuing its handling of your ADEA case. However, if 60 days have passed since the filing of the charge, you may file suit in federal or state court under the ADEA at this time.

Equal Pay Act (EPA): You already have the right to sue under the EPA (filing an EEOC charge is not required.) EPA suits must be brought in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

If you file suit, based on this charge, please send a copy of your court complaint to this office.

On behalf of the Commission



August 17, 2021

Enclosures(s)

Dana R. Hutter,
Deputy Director

(Date Issued)

CC: **Joseph Heck**
VP of People Support
HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
510 Walnut Street., 9th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Scott Johnson
LAW OFFICES OF ERIC SHORE
TWO PENN CENTER, SUITE 1240
1500 JFK BOULEVARD
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT
UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC**

*(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court under Federal law.
If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other
provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)*

**PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),
the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), or the Age
Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):**

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge **within 90 days of the date you receive this Notice**. Therefore, you should **keep a record of this date**. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope or record of receipt, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed **within 90 days of the date this Notice was issued to you** (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark or record of receipt, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit** may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/08 to 12/1/08, you should file suit **before 7/1/10** -- not 12/1/10 -- in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2008. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII, the ADA or GINA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, **please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice**. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.

Enclosures(s)

cc: